

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05511 191442Z

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5511

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TU US

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION OF ALLEGED KISSINGER-ECEVIT TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION

1. MASS CIRCULATION SENSATIONALIST HURRIYET JULY 18 PLACED AN
ADVERTISEMENT ON ITS FIRST PAGE ANNOUNCING: "WE REVEAL A
DOCUMENT CONCERNING THE CYPRUS OPERATION--ECEVIT-KISSINGER
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION--TUESDAY, JULY 20 IN HURRIYET." (JULY 20
IS THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF TURKEY'S
MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CYRPUS.)

2. HASAN ESAT ISIK, WHO WAS DEFENSE MINISTER IN THE ECEVIT
GOVERNMENT AND IS NOW THE DEPUTY SEC GEN OF ECEVIT'S PARTY,
CALLED US JULY 19 TO SAY THAT AFTER READING HURRIYET'S ANNOUNCEMENT
HE HAD TRIED TO GET A RECORD OF THE ALLEGED CONVERSATION
FROM ECEVIT, AND THAT ECEVIT HAD REFUSED ON TWO COUNTS:

(1) ECEVIT DOES NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF AT LIBERTY TO
RELEASE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE TIME OF HIS PREMIERSHIP,
AND (2) EVEN IF HE WANTED TO RELEASE THE DOCUMENT, HE WOULD
HAVE TO HAVE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PERMISSION. ISIK SAID THAT
ECEVIT DOES NOT RECALL WHETHER THERE WAS A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
ON JULY 20, 1974 BETWEEN HIMSELF AND DR. KISSINGER BUT THAT
HE CANNOT RULE IT OUT. IN ANY EVENT, ISIK SAID, ECEVIT WANTED
US TO KNOW THAT HE HAD NEVER GIVEN PERMISSION TO HURRIYET
FOR THE PUBLICATION OF ANY SUCH CONVERSATION AND THAT HE WAS
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NOT A PARTY IN ANY WAY TO THE RELEASE OF THE TRANSCRIPT.

3. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN
DR. KISSINGER AND ECEVIT ON JULY 10, 1974. PRESUMABLY, HOWEVER,
THE CONVERSATION IN QUESTION COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON ANOTHER DATE.
MACOMBER

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